

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5120

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 2229

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EGEN, AR

SUBJECT: COMMENTARY ON CURRENT SITUATION BY U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY

1. A WEEK AFTER THE COUP, EMBOFFS, INCLUDING DCM CHAPLIN, LUNCHEDED WITH BOARD OF U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. WE COLLECTED FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS.

2. BOARD MEMBERS WERE NOTICEABLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT CHANGES THEY FORESAW IN ECONOMIC POLICY AND BUSINESS CLIMATE, THOUGH NO ONE YET HAD ANY FIRM DETAILS OF MARTINEZ DE HOZ'S ECONOMIC PLAN. A NUMBER OF THEM COMMENTED ON THE PRONOUNCED DROP IN ABSENTEEISM AND SURGE IN PRODUCTIVITY WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN PAST WEEK THROUGHOUT THE ECONOMY. EVEN LABOR UNION DELEGATES ("DELEGADOS") ARE WORKING, APPARENTLY. (THIS PHENOMENON HAS ALSO BEEN WIDELY COMMENTED ON IN PRESS.) MANY FIRMS WHICH HAD BEEN OPERATING WITH 15 TO 25 PERCENT ABSENTEEISM AND AT LEVELS OF PRODUCTIVITY EQUIVALENT TO HALF THE NORMAL, NOW REPORT PRODUCTIVITY HAS RETURNED TO PRE-PERONIST LEVELS, BEGINNING THE DAY OF THE COUP.

3. BOARD MEMBERS ALSO REPORTED MORE RECENT VISITS TO INDUSTRIAL PLANTS BY MILITARY OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO MILITARY ZONE IN WHICH PLANTS INCLUDED. IN SOME CASES MILITARY ALLEGEDLY TRANSMITTED DIRECTLY TO WORK FORCE THEIR DESIRE THAT WORK

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PROCEED ON A NO-NONSENSE BASIS AND WITHOUT DISRUPTION.

PLANT EXECUTIVES WERE ASKED TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MILITARY
ZONE COMMANDERS AND REPORT INSTANCES OF DISRUPTION. IN SOME
INSTANCES MANAGERS HAVE BEEN ASKED FOR LISTS OF NAMES OF
TROUBLEMAKING ELEMENTS IN PLANTS. IN OTHERS, MILITARY ALREADY
SEEMED TO HAVE LIST AND ENTERED PLANTS TO ARREST THEM.
HILL

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